

Please replace the abstract paragraph with the following paragraph:

*ne*  
*B1* -A method for attaching mechanical fasteners to absorbent articles and articles produced by such a method. The method attaches parts using slow-crystallizing hot melt adhesives under conditions sufficient to result in a mechanical fastener/absorbent article bond static shear strength of at least about 60 min/1.2 kg.

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 5-6 with the following paragraph:

*B2* -This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/159,562, filed October 15, 1999, which is incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 13-19 with the following paragraph:

*B3* -The use of mechanical fastening means on absorbent articles, such as diapers, training pants, adult incontinent products, feminine care products, and the like, is well known. A common type of mechanical fastener employed on absorbent articles is a hook-and-loop type fastener in which a hook or hook-type fastener tab is provided which is adapted for releasably engaging with a loop or loop-like material. Such hook-and-loop type fasteners are also well known in the prior art. Other well known types of mechanical fasteners include snaps, buttons, zippers, mushroom fasteners and the like.

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, lines 4-9 with the following paragraph:

*B4* -The present invention overcomes the aforementioned difficulty by supplying an effective and reliable method for attaching mechanical fasteners to absorbent articles using slow-crystallizing hot melt adhesives under conditions sufficient to result in a mechanical fastener/absorbent article bond static shear strength of at least about 60 min/1.2kg. More particularly, the present invention relates to a method for attaching a

B4 hook-type fastener tab to an absorbent article using a slow-crystallizing hot melt adhesive and the resulting absorbent article.

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, lines 10-19 with the following paragraph:

-- In a preferred embodiment, the present invention relates to a method for attaching a mechanical fastener to an absorbent article comprising the steps of:

- B5
- a) providing said absorbent article;
  - b) providing said mechanical fastener;
  - c) applying a slow-crystallizing hot melt adhesive to said absorbent article in a target area; and
  - d) attaching said mechanical fastener to said absorbent article in the target area with said slow-crystallizing hot melt adhesive under conditions sufficient to result in a mechanical fastener/absorbent article bond static shear strength of at least about 60 min/1.2kg.

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 1-10 with the following paragraph:

-- In another embodiment, the present invention relates to an absorbent article produced according to the above described method comprising:

- B6
- a) a liquid pervious topsheet;
  - b) a liquid impervious backsheet joined to said topsheet;
  - c) an absorbent core positioned between said topsheet and said backsheet; and
  - d) at least one mechanical fastener positioned so as to secure the absorbent article to an intended user, wherein the mechanical fastener is attached to said absorbent article using a slow-crystallizing hot melt adhesive under conditions sufficient to result in a mechanical fastener/absorbent article bond static shear strength of at least about 60 min/1.2kg.

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 1-10 with the following paragraph:

B7  
-- While not being bound by theory, it is believed that the crystalline form of the adhesive increases the cohesive and adhesive properties of the adhesive, which thereby results in greater bond strength. As opposed to typical hot melt adhesive bonds which tend to soften over time under heat and stress, the crystalline structure of the adhesive bonds formed according to the method of the present invention are more resistant to the effects of heat and stress. As such, it was unexpectedly discovered that when mechanical fasteners are attached to absorbent articles according to the method of the present invention, a mechanical fastener/absorbent article bond static shear strength of at least about 60 min/1.2 kg, more preferably at least about 84 min/1.2 kg, and most preferably of at least about 240 min/1.2 kg, is attained. As used herein, static shear strength is determined at 120 °F according to the method described in the detailed examples. --

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, line 21 - page 6, line 2 with the following paragraph:

B8  
-- The slow-crystallizing hot melt adhesive is applied to the target area of the absorbent article in an amount sufficient to secure the mechanical fastener to the absorbent article with a static shear strength bond of at least about 60 min/1.2kg. Preferably, the slow-crystallizing hot melt adhesive is applied to the target area of the absorbent article in an amount of less than about 0.045 grams/target area. --

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 7-14 with the following paragraph:

B9  
-- The topsheet 24 of the disposable diaper 20, as representatively illustrated in FIGS. 1-2, suitably presents a body-facing surface which is compliant, soft feeling and non-irritating to the wearer's skin. Further, the topsheet 24 is preferably less hydrophilic than the absorbent core 26, to present a relatively dry surface to the wearer,

B9 and may be sufficiently porous to be liquid permeable, permitting liquid to readily penetrate through its thickness. If the topsheet is formed from a substantially hydrophobic material, then the hydrophobic material may, optionally, be treated with a surfactant or otherwise processed to impart a desired level of wettability and hydrophilicity.

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, line 21 - page 11, line 2 with the following paragraph:

B10 The elastomer substrate 40 can be formed from any known elastic material, such as: elastomer films, e.g., natural or synthetic rubber; elastomer strands, e.g., LYCRA strands; elastomer foams, e.g., urethane foams; elastomer nonwoven materials; laminates or composites of such elastomer materials with other elastomer or non-elastomer materials; and the like. Likewise, the film substrate 46 can be formed from any suitable material known in the art.

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, lines 8-16 with the following paragraph:

B11 This test measures the static shear strength of a mechanical fastener/absorbent article bond. The test utilizes a static load at an elevated temperature to simulate extended wear conditions. The test is considered an accelerated test, because the test load and temperatures are intentionally high to reduce the test time. The particular mechanical fastener tested in the present example included a hook-type fastener tab attached to a film substrate, which is in turn attached to an elastomer substrate which is in turn attached to backsheet material. The control samples utilized a traditional hot melt adhesive to secure the component pieces together. The test samples utilized a slow-crystallizing hot melt adhesive according to the present invention to secure the component pieces together.

IN THE CLAIMS: